

Schaumburg, IL – Congresswoman Melissa Bean (IL-08) hosted her second small business forum in a 2007 series for local business. Bean was joined by Lance Pressl, President of the Chicagoland Chamber of Commerce Foundation, to discuss innovation and the current business climate with local business leaders. The program, entitled “Innovate Now! A Framework for Innovation,” concentrated on ways businesses can identify incremental improvements and breakthrough developments that create value for stakeholders, drive economic growth and improve living standards.

The event is another example of Bean’s continuing efforts on behalf of the small business community. In April, on a bipartisan vote of 380 to 45, the U.S. House of Representatives passed Bean’s Small Business Lending Improvements Act (H.R. 1332), which helps small companies obtain the capital they need to invest and strengthen our economy.

Bean is also one of the leaders of the House Majority’s Innovation Agenda, which is a package of legislative initiatives designed to spur economic growth and unleash the next generation of discovery. The Innovation Agenda began nearly two years ago outside Washington in meetings with leaders and CEOs from many fields: academia, venture capital, and entrepreneurs from the high-tech, biotech, and telecommunications sectors who are creating the jobs of tomorrow. This agenda, which includes partnerships with the private sector, will help create a new generation of innovators; invest in federal research and development; spur affordable access to broadband and pursue energy independence.

Bean spent twenty-years in the high-tech industry in both corporate America and as a small business owner before bringing her real world business perspective to Congress. As Finance and Tax Subcommittee Chairwoman of the House Small Business Committee, Bean is working to ensure that the Small Business Administration’s lending initiatives are working efficiently and providing entrepreneurs with the capital they need to grow.

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